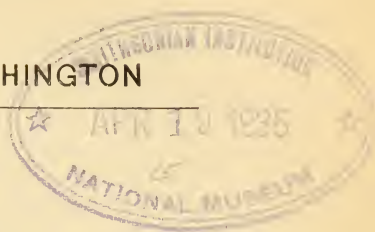


PROCEEDINGS  
OF THE  
BIOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF WASHINGTON



A NEW PHALLOSTETHID FISH FROM PALAWAN.

BY GEORGE S. MYERS.

Among the fishes obtained by the U. S. Fisheries Steamer "Albatross" in the Philippines in 1907-1910 were several Phallostethids. One of them, representing a very distinct new genus, is described below.

**PLECTROSTETHUS**, new genus.

*Genotype*.—*Plectrostethus palawanensis*, new species.

Toxactinium absent. An oval pulvinulus, smaller than the eye and free around its entire margin, is present just posterior to the prominent keel of the axial bone. A single smooth ctenactinium, not greatly curved, with a broad membranous margin along the lower side of its proximal half. At its base, the folded ctenactinium covers a flat fleshy process armed on its upper and posterior border with a row of 9 or 10 short sharp recurved spines; on its anterior border the process bears two longer spines, directed forward.

Anal fin moderate in length. Nape and opercles naked. First dorsal of 2 rays. Lower jaw weak and partly included within the upper. Teeth in a single series, recurved. A thin, naked fleshy keel along belly.

**Plectrostethus palawanensis**, new species.

*Holotype*.—U. S. N. M. 93421, a left adult male, 23 mm. standard length (28 mm. total), seined by a shore party from the U. S. S. "Albatross" at the mouth of the Caiholo River, Ulugan Bay, west coast of Palawan, Dec. 29, 1908.

*Allotype*.—U. S. N. M. 93422, a female 19.5 mm. standard length (22.5 mm. total), same locality and date.

*Paratypes*.—U. S. N. M. 93423, ten specimens, same locality and date.

First dorsal 2, inserted directly above base of tenth anal ray. Second dorsal  $5\frac{1}{2}$ , inserted over base of last anal ray. Anal  $15\frac{1}{2}$ . Caudal 6-16-7. Scales 30 to 32 from upper end of gill slit to tip of hypural; 7 in a transverse series from mid-dorsal scale row to ventral keel. Body very slender, its greatest depth 7.66 times in standard length, its axis not angulated. Head very small, 5.75 in standard length. Least depth of caudal peduncle 11.5,

snout tip to anal origin 1.87, and second dorsal origin to hypural end 3.83 in standard length. Eye 2.20 in head.

This little fish is closely related to *Neostethus*, from which it differs trenchantly in the presence of the spine-bearing process of the priapium and in the wing-like margin of the ctenactinium.

The Phallostethidae, first made known by Regan (*Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, (8) XII, 1913, p. 548; *Proc. Zool. Soc. London*, 1916, p. 1) as Cyprinodonts and lately placed in the order Percosoces by the present writer (*Amer. Mus. Novit.*, No. 295, 1928, p. 4), diverge widely from any of their supposed relatives in the remarkable and complex priapium of the male. I venture, therefore, to propose for them a new suborder, *Phallostethoidea*, to rank with the Mugiloidea and Polynemoidea in the Percosoces.